

In 2013, he was elected as the City's mayor. Over the last seven years, he has led Lawrence through two major crises—the 2018 Merrimack Valley natural gas explosions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Time and again, he has demonstrated his leadership and dedication to the residents of the great City of Lawrence.

The Merrimack Valley gas explosions forced thousands of families to flee the area, damaged and destroyed dozens of homes, left many businesses with considerable financial losses, and tragically took a young man's life. Throughout that period, Mayor Rivera led with purpose and empathy in every decision he made to get the City on the path of recovery, while fighting to ensure the community received all necessary support and resources. He has been a close ally as we successfully advanced the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act. This legislation will ensure no community ever faces a disaster like this one again, becoming law in December of 2020.

Just as the City of Lawrence was recovering from the natural gas explosions, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Lawrence has been among the hardest hit communities in the Commonwealth by the pandemic, disproportionately impacting its large population of Black and brown residents. With the utmost transparency in communication, Mayor Rivera consistently urged the community to maintain social distance, enacted a city-wide eviction moratorium to protect renters, created two Emergency Small Business Relief Programs designed to help the Lawrence businesses and immigrant entrepreneur communities as they work to get back on their feet, and diligently collaborated with the State and Federal governments to set up testing sites around the city.

Mayor Rivera's leadership and hard work has been recognized by various organizations. He was awarded MassInc.'s Mayor Bill Carpenter Award for Excellence in Gateway City Leadership in 2020, and in 2018 was recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential People of Color in Greater Boston by Get Connected.

Through his many years of service, Mayor Rivera has made the City of Lawrence a better place to call home. Thanks to his efforts, the City's future is bright, and I join Lawrence residents in thanking him for his dedication to this incredible community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREA MEDICAID PARITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, President-elect Biden has pledged to address the healthcare disparity in minority communities that the coronavirus pandemic has laid bare. One longstanding disparity is that our national Medicaid program does not reach all Americans with full coverage.

The Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are subject to a hard, statutory limit on federal Medicaid support, unlike the states and the District of Columbia. This cap

means that preventative care and treatment for the poorest Americans in the insular areas will always be less available than for Americans elsewhere.

The final Obama-Biden administration budget proposal, for fiscal year 2017, addressed this systemic inequity by proposing an alignment of insular area Medicaid programs with the rest of the nation, first by removing the cap on Medicaid funding, so that it would no longer operate as a block grant in any insular area.

Congress has also acknowledged this inequity. We acted to provide more Medicaid funding for the insular areas by substantially lifting the cap through P.L. 116-94, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. Provisions in P.L. 116-127, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act created equity between the states and the insular areas with respect to the increase in the federal-local match for Medicaid. Families First, also, provided additional federal dollars for the insular area Medicaid programs. But our actions were temporary. These funding increases expire at the end of fiscal year 2021.

Now, Congress must act again. And in doing so, we must create an enduring policy that safeguards the health of the poorest Americans in our insular areas.

To achieve that goal, I am introducing the Insular Area Medicaid Parity Act. My bill aligns with President-elect Biden's pledge to address healthcare disparities in minority communities by repealing the arbitrary cap on Medicaid for Americans in the insular areas.

By repealing the cap, we will be doing more than just ensuring there are sufficient resources to face the coronavirus crisis. We will be setting up the healthcare systems in the insular areas to respond to the next public health challenge, whatever it may be. Most important of all, we will ensure that day-after-day and year-by-year those with the smallest incomes and no access to other insurance receive the care that will keep them healthy and help ward off debilitating disease.

We will, also, be providing a level of certainty to healthcare providers—in the public and private sector—that will encourage investment in the health industry in the insular areas, which by any measure lags the rest of the nation. And by doing so we will create a virtuous cycle of rising quality of care powered by rising access that will benefit all at every income level.

The pandemic has brought home this truth: none of us can truly remain well, while some of us are ill. Now it is time for Congress to fully commit to making sure the poorest in the insular areas are treated equitably.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this legislation—Chairman McGOVERN, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman DELAUNO, Chairman NADLER, Mr. CLEAVER II, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SIREN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GARCÍA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTRO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. TRONE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. KELLY, and Ms. CHU.

HONORING ALLEN CHIN

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Allen Chin, who passed away on November 18, 2013 at the age of 91. A proud Chinese Immigrant, Allen was a member of the Greatest Generation, and valiantly served our country in WWII to protect our freedom and American values at home and abroad. Allen's life embodied the highest ideals of our nation, and his remarkable courage are forever etched in our nation's history. For his service and sacrifice, Allen was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service during World War II.

At age 15, Allen left his family in Guangdong, China and emigrated to San Francisco, California with a sponsorship from his uncle. When WWII broke out, Allen answered the call of duty and joined the U.S. Army. Allen was sent to serve in the Pacific Theater and became a machinist who helped train Chinese allied troops. His service instilled in him a deeply-held patriotism, which he would later inspire in future generations.

Upon returning home to California, Allen became an American citizen and sponsored his family in China to come to the United States. Allen's first civilian career was owning and operating the Sonoma House grocery store—a place where all in the neighborhood convened and shopped. He met and married his wife Lillian who he called the "Pretty girl from Shanghai" and they began a long life together.

Allen and his wife raised their daughter Arlene and settled down permanently in Arizona to forge a new path filled with adventure. Allen was a devoted father and active member of the Tempe community. He opened and sold a successful Chinese restaurant, worked as a machinist in the semiconductor industry, and pursued perhaps his greatest passion: ballroom dance. A man of dignity and honor, Allen's spirit lives on with his daughter Arlene, who has followed in his footsteps and continued his legacy of service. She has served Tempe proudly becoming its first Asian-American city councilmember.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Allen for his selfless commitment and sacrifice. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for all he has done to make our community, our state, and our country a better place. In this spirit of gratitude and remembrance, I humbly rise to honor his life and legacy, which will continue to be felt for generations to come.

I thank Allen, and wish him Godspeed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD REPAIR ACT OF 2021

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act of 2021, legislation that will expand eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block

Grant program to include rural roads that serve to transport agriculture products from farms or ranches to the marketplace.

American agricultural communities play a pivotal role in the economy within my district and across America. These farms and ranches provide the communities they serve with fresh products daily, ensuring consumers have an adequate and healthy food supply. Unfortunately, many of the roads are deteriorating.

Over 70 percent of our nation's total road mileage is in rural areas, yet, between 2009–2015, these roads have only seen about 37 percent of federal highway fund. As Congress debates how to move forward with a bold plan to address infrastructure, we need to ensure road-repair projects like these do not fall by the wayside as we seek to address other larger infrastructure projects. Just because a road is in a rural area does not mean the road is small or otherwise unimportant. To the contrary, I am aware of several rural road projects in my district and the surrounding region that are major connectors that would benefit from this type of funding opportunity.

Madam Speaker, my bill expands the current surface block grant program to include these roads—roads that serve as a lifeline to the people that depend on them. We must invest in our rural infrastructure now, before it is in complete disrepair. This legislation was included in H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, when it passed in the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure it passes again. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I have been diagnosed with covid-19. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 10 and NAY on Roll Call No. 11.

IN HONOR OF NORMAN YEE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the President of the San Francisco of Supervisors Norman Yee who is departing the Board of Supervisors after eight years, and after serving a prior eight years as a commissioner on the San Francisco Board of Education.

Norman is a native San Franciscan and was raised in Chinatown. From an early age, he worked at a Noe Valley grocery store owned by his parents. He graduated from Galileo Academy of Science and Technology, then attended City College, and finally matriculated to the University of California at Berkeley, graduating with a BS in Civil Engineering. He also holds a MA in Education from San Francisco State University.

Norman Yee is an activist and leader. He taught ESL and citizenship classes at City

College from 1984 to 1994, and for 18 years was the executive director for Wu Yee Children's Service, an advocacy group supporting child services in San Francisco. He was elected as a commissioner of the school district in 2004 and served as its president during his second term.

In 2012, he was elected to serve on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. In this role, he sponsored or cosponsored 780 pieces of legislation, many of citywide significance that also went to the ballot. For example, in 2016 he cosponsored Proposition W which made City College free for all city residents. In 2018, he cosponsored Proposition C to fund universal childcare. Both measures passed because San Franciscans deeply appreciate education. For his district, he secured more funding for parks, negotiated with neighbors to allow local businesses to expand, opposed short-term illegal rentals by AirBnB, pushed for lower speed limits on dangerous streets, and led efforts to boost funding for senior programs.

He spearheaded creation of the city's Early Head Start program, the Asian Parent Education Network, the San Francisco Child Care Providers Association, and the Chinatown Beacon Center. He remains a board member of the San Francisco Child Care Providers Association.

Last year, Norman Yee was elected president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He is fair in setting agendas and works collaboratively with colleagues. He is also a leader. An example is the new housing being developed in his district at the Balboa reservoir.

Rents in San Francisco have declined during the pandemic, but the long-term trend is sharply upward. The reservoir site is adjacent to the main campus of City College, a treasure within my district that I proudly support. Proposals for housing stretch back to the 1960's. A year before he was tragically taken from us, I personally spoke to Mayor Ed Lee about placing housing at this site. However, it's hard to build when the public is divided.

Supervisor Yee rolled up his sleeves to create a proposal acceptable to most and of enduring service to low income residents of San Francisco. Over time, many thousands will be served. 1,100 units of housing will be built, 50 percent affordable, and 150 units will be dedicated to City College faculty and staff.

As our nation struggles to come to grips with systemic racism and abuses by some on police forces, Supervisor Yee recently placed onto the ballot a measure to change the way in which San Francisco staffs its police force. An existing city charter provision required San Francisco to have 1,971 full-time duty officers on the force. In November, San Francisco voters abolished this provision. This will allow the board, the police and community to talk about how the department will be staffed. 71 percent of the city's voters agreed with Norman Yee that this change is needed to move the community forward.

Supervisor Yee is a gentleman and a thoughtful public servant. I've known some elected officials who light up a room by destructively setting off verbal fireworks in a tightly crowded auditorium. Norman simply tells it like it is. This reassures his constituents that he's not present at the meeting for adulation from the crowd but for the hard work that produces progress.

Madam Speaker, as Supervisor Yee exits public service, he will be remembered as the man everyone could have over for dinner because he's so earnest and so interesting. Now that he's leaving, his wife Cathy and their two children Karissa and Chandra may see him for a few more dinners. We thank them for their service, as well, because they also sacrificed for the community's best interests during his time in elective office. We will see Norman on the streets of Westwood, his neighborhood, and perhaps in city hall from time to time. We will also remember him as the man who understood every corner of his beloved San Francisco because he earned the friendship of people throughout this great city.

HONORING MARIO LIZCANO

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mario Lizcano of Edinburg, Texas for his incredible commitment to serve the Rio Grande Valley.

Mario is a community leader who grew up in Pharr, Texas. He went to high school at PSJA High and attended college at the University of Texas San Antonio.

Mr. Lizcano is now the Administrator of Corporate Affairs at DHR Health, a physician-owned health system that offers some of the most comprehensive medical care on the U.S. Southern Border. Mario has been with DHR Health for nearly 14 years and has contributed significantly to the promotion of health and COVID-19 awareness in the Rio Grande Valley.

Mario was named Man of the Year for 2020 by the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce for his magnificent record of public service. He was not only recognized for his work with DHR Health, but for his countless other selfless acts that benefit the community. Mario served as the 2020 Edinburg Census Committee Chairman and helped ensure South Texas had the most accurate count possible. He is also the Chairman of the Board for the Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce and the Vice President of the Pharr Economic Development Corporation.

In addition to his various leadership roles within the community, Mr. Lizcano is a 20-year volunteer firefighter veteran, achieving the rank of Firefighter of the year, twice, by the city of Mission, as well as the Firefighter of the Year for the entire Rio Grande Valley. Once, he even ran a 5k in full firefighter uniform to raise money for charity.

Mario has contributed and volunteered for more than 500 regional and statewide events and has accumulated innumerable awards. The sheer amount of leadership positions and awards Mr. Lizcano has achieved is too many to recognize today in my allotted time.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the countless achievements of Mario Lizcano. He has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community and his legacy will no doubt inspire public service and volunteerism of future generations. I thank Mr. Lizcano and congratulate him.